

a:barbados 25 March 97

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
ENABLING ACTIVITY PROPOSAL

Country: Barbados

Project Title: National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and First National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity

GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity

Country Eligibility: Ratified the CBD on 10 December 1993

GEF Financing: US\$ 143,640

Government Contribution: In kind and personnel

Estimated Total Budget: US\$ 143,640

GEF Implementing Agency: UNEP

National Executing Agency: Environment Division, Ministry of Health and the Environment

GEF National Focal Point: Permanent Secretary (Foreign Affairs), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tourism and International Transport

GEF Operational Focal Point: Permanent Secretary, Environment Division, Ministry of Health and Environment

CBD Focal Point: Permanent Secretary, Environment Division, Ministry of Health and Environment

Estimated Starting Date: May 1997

Project Duration: 8 months

I. Background/Context:

Barbados is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) found in the Caribbean. It has a total land area of 166 square miles (430 km²) and an Exclusive Economic zone (EEZ) of 167,000 km². The resident population is 260,000 with about 800,000 visitors per annum (long stay and cruise ship). The annual population growth rate is about 0.1%.

The biodiversity found in the island of Barbados has the following features:

Land ecosystems: Almost all the natural vegetation was removed 300 years ago mainly to make way for extensive sugar cultivation. At present, apart from the scattered and non-indigenous mahogany groves, the natural vegetation comprises mainly xerophytic species and some mangroves in coastal areas with scrub and sour grass in the drier areas. Tree cover comprises secondary and tertiary deciduous species such as whitewood, Tabebuia heterophylla. The only remnants of the original abundant forest cover now occur at Turner's Hall Wood (tropical mesophytic forest), Hackelton Undercliff Woods, and possibly in some gullies. Only 800 ha (2%) of Barbados is under tree cover.

Terrestrial Fauna and Flora: Information on the distribution and life-history of the terrestrial life forms of Barbados is scarce. Of the vertebrates species, birds are the most diverse, with some 201 species recorded but comprising mainly of migratory species. Fifteen species of mammals occur in the country, the most commonly encountered being the green monkey, the mongoose and several species of rats, bats and mice. Others more rarely seen include two endemic species of hare and racoons, which were once numerous and are now thought to be on the verge of extinction in Barbados. Eight species of reptiles and two species of amphibians are found. Due to the absence of any significant inland water bodies, the fish diversity of Barbados is higher in the marine environment than in rivers and lakes. The most well known freshwater fish is Tilapia which dominates the lake body of the Graeme Hall swamp. The flora of Barbados consists of 650-700 species of flowering plants of which three are unique to Barbados. There is some knowledge of the ferns and fern allies, but very little is known about bryophytes. The limited nature of flora is a consequence of the relatively young age of the island as well as the island-wide deforestation that occurred in the early years of settlement. The largest variety of plant species in any one location in the island is to be found at Turner's Hall Wood.

Coastal and Marine Resources: Barbados has a 92 km long coastline along which five surviving mangrove swamps of varying size are found. These mangroves serve as nursery and breeding grounds for reef fish and crustaceans. The island has two reef systems: the inner/fringing reefs located near the shoreline and the barrier reef system. The nearshore reefs in Barbados can be classified as stressed and this deterioration contributes to beach erosion. Furthermore, both reef systems can be classified as overfished. With respect to ocean resources, the most important ones are pelagic fish. However, their abundance and potential yield have not been fully determined. The flying fish (*Hirundichthys affinis*), dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), wahoo (*Acanthociblum solandri*) - called kingfish locally, tunas (*Scombroidei*) and bill fishes (*Istiophoridae*) constitute the principal catches. Four species of marine turtles occur in Barbados waters (green, leatherback, hawksbill, loggerhead) and all of them are classified as either critically endangered or endangered by IUCN. At present, the coastal and marine environments are utilized primarily as the resource base of the fisheries and tourism industries, and to support the critical ocean shipping facility.

The Government of Barbados places a high priority on the conservation and sustainable use of its biodiversity resources as evidenced by the environmental legislation concerning wildlife/protected areas and natural resources conservation passed since 1972, and the noticeable increase in the level of environmental education and public awareness programmes

promoted in the country by both the government and the NGOs. This is further supported by the Environmental Management and Land use Project to be implemented between January 1997 and June 1998, which will review existing legislation and introduce new comprehensive and consistent legislation for the management and sustainable use of national resources. The NGO involvement in environmental education is particularly encouraged by the Government of Barbados: the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA), the Barbados National Trust (BNT), the Barbados Museum and Historical Society (BMS), the Garrison Committee, the Barbados Environmental Youth Programme (BEYP) and the Future Centre Trust (FCT), all play a major role as the country seeks to integrate environment and development. Barbados was a leading advocate of SIDS concerns leading up to UNCED. The SIDS Conference that followed was held in Barbados, resulting in the SIDS Plan of Action. Furthermore, Barbados is an active member of the regional network CARICOMP set up to coordinate regional efforts with regard to marine resources conservation activities.

Despite the emphasis placed upon conservation and sustainable development, growing challenges threatens the biodiversity resources of Barbados. The most important threat is habitat encroachment and destruction due to pressures of demographics, economic development and land use patterns, compounded by the availability of information on the distribution and life history of the terrestrial and marine life forms of the country.

II. Project Objectives and Short Description:

The main objective of the project is to assist the government of Barbados to prepare a national biodiversity strategy and action plan within the framework of the CBD and prepare a national report pursuant to Article 26 of the CBD and Decision II/17 of the Conference of the Parties (COP). The NBSAP will define the current status of biological diversity, the threats leading to its degradation and the strategies and priority actions to ensure its conservation and sustainable use within the framework of the socio-economic development of the country.

The project will start off by a stock taking and assessment of the existing information on the status of biodiversity of Barbados using existing methodologies such as the UNEP Guidelines for preparation of biodiversity country studies. The data collated in this exercise will be computerized in a data base hence offering the country the foundation for a biodiversity data management system. Procedures and guidelines will be set up for continuous development of this data base. The methodologies and toolkits developed under the UNEP/GEF Biodiversity Data Management and Networking (BDM) project will be provided to the national team to facilitate this undertaking.

The information gathered in the stocktaking and assessment will form the basis for discussions leading to the preparation of the NBSAP through a participatory and multidisciplinary approach including all stakeholders. By means of sensitization and public awareness activities to identify the differing perspectives, the governmental, commercial, research and non-governmental establishments involved in the management, conservation, breeding and trade in biodiversity will be brought together to address specific theme or issues. It is anticipated that 2 national workshops will take place in the course of the project, the first one to discuss options for achieving the objectives of the CBD given the current status of biodiversity and different activities that impact on it in Barbados, while the second

national workshop will discuss and agree on the draft NBSAP prepared on the basis of the outputs and recommendations of the first national workshop. Representatives of all major stakeholder groups will participate in the 2 national workshops.

National consultants will be largely responsible for undertaking the stocktaking and review of existing data, its computerization and for the preparation of the NBSAP. International experts will provide additional assistance and training in developing procedures and systems for future development of the biodiversity data management system, in the preparation of the NBSAP and advise on the preparation of the first national report.

The workshops and other outreach activities will be planned, organized and carried out by the Planning Team under the overall supervision of the Ministry of Health and the Environment, assisted by national and international consultants as necessary.

III Operational Criteria:

i) Coverage without duplication:

The NBSAP will utilise existing capacity and information including the IADB funded Coastal Conservation Project, FAO's Tropical Forestry Action Plan, the draft Plan for Management and Development of Fisheries in the Waters of Barbados, as well as studies and data from the activities of other agencies and institutions. Additionally, institutional issues will be addressed under the Environmental Management and Land Use Project which will produce draft recommendations at the end of 1997 and be complete in June 1998. In so doing, there will be an emphasis to avoid duplication.

ii) Appropriate overall sequencing of activities:

The project will be conducted over a period of 8 months as reflected in the schedule shown in the following table.

	Activity/Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Meeting of the Steering Committee to plan implementation of the project	x							
2	Selection of Consultants	x							
3	Orientation workshop for the Planning Team and Consultants in biodiversity analysis and planning	x							
4	Stocktaking/review of existing information	x	x						
5	Development of procedures for constitution and management of a national species database based on the stocktaking outputs		x	x					
6	Stakeholders sensitization/consultations/public outreach			x	x				
7	First national workshop				x				
8	Drafting of NBSAP				x	x			
9	Circulation of draft NBSAP for comments						x		
10	Second national workshop						x		
11	Finalization of NBSAP							x	x
12	Printing and publication of NBSAP								x
13	Preparation of first national report and submission to CBD							x	x

iii) Best practice:

The methodology for the implementation of this project will be based on the following:

- i) Guidelines for Biodiversity Planning (WRIT/UNEP/IUCN, 1995);
- ii) Operational Criteria for Enabling Activities; Biodiversity (GEF Secretariat, 1996)
- iii) A Guide to the Convention on Biological Diversity (IUCN, 1994)

The First National Report to the CBD will be based on information obtained during the Project and will be submitted by the date stipulated by COP 3.

IV Institutional Framework:

The Environment Division, Ministry of Health and the Environment will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this project. The Environment Division is the focal point for the CBD and the operational focal point for GEF. At the onset of the project, a project coordinator will be designated and he/she will chair a Steering Committee whose composition will draw on the existing Working Group on Biodiversity (WGB) and include representation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the National GEF Focal Point, some local NGOs and other relevant stakeholders representatives.

The Working Group on Biodiversity (WGB) is a multisectoral and multidisciplinary group comprising of individuals with specific expertise and knowledge of the various components of Barbados' biodiversity that advises the government of Barbados on biodiversity issues. It was established during the process leading to UNCED, as the country was preparing its national report to the Rio Earth Summit, to prepare the part of the report dealing with biodiversity issues. This WGB will be the core Planning Team of the Steering Committee for this project responsible for planning and carrying out the activities specified under the project together with national and international consultants as appropriate.

V Project Financing**Project Budget (US\$) Barbados NBSAP**

Activity	Product	Process	Total
1. Assessment of Existing Information	26,000		26,000
- Collection of data/Documentation	5,000		
- National Consultants (1 p/m)	8,000		
- International Consultant (1 p/m)	7,000		
- Computerization of data	5,000		
- Miscellaneous	1,000		
2. Identification and analysis of options	18,000	32,000	50,000
- Orientation workshop for Planning Team and consultants		3,000	
- Public awareness/sensitization/outreach activities		12,000	
- First National workshop		5,000	
- International Consultant (1 p/m)	3,000	4,000	
- National Consultants (6 p/m)	6,000	6,000	
- Reports	7,000		
- Miscellaneous	2,000		
- Steering Committee Consultations		2,000	
3. Preparation of NBSAP	25,000	22,000	47,000
- National Consultants (5p/m)	5,000	5,000	
- International Consultants (2p/m)	7,000	7,000	
- 2nd National Workshop		5,000	
- Dissemination of draft NBSAP report		3,000	
- Printing & Publication of the NBSAP report	10,000		
- Miscellaneous	3,000		
- Steering Committee Consultations		2,000	
4. Preparation of First National Report	10,000		10,000
- National Consultants (report preparation and editing, 2p/m)	6,000		
- Printing and Publication	3,000		
- Miscellaneous	1,000		
5. Co-ordination & Management Costs (8%)	4,000	6,640	10,640
Total	83,000	60,640	143,640

VI Deviations from norms and criteria: None.

TABLE A: Dimensions of Enabling Activities (Standard Activity Matrix), Barbados

Enabling Activity	Out-put	Capacity Building		Public Participation	Comments (To see footnotes)
		Institutional Strengthening	Training		
1 Stocktaking of existing information					1.2.3
1.1 Biodiversity and biological resources	x				
1.2 Cross-sectoral Issues	x				
1.3 Policy and Regulatory Framework	x				
1.4 Institutional and Human Capacity	x				
1.5 Analysis of root causes of BD	x				
1.6 Technologies for Conservation and Sustainable Use	x				
1.7 Activities with Adverse Impact	x				
1.8 Existing Measures and Programmes	x				
1.9 Preliminary Statement of Objectives	x				
1.10 Identification of Gaps	x				
1.11 Assessment of cost/benefit and needs	x				
2 Identification and analysis of options to meet the objectives of the CBD					
2.1 Strategies for Conservation	x	x	x	x	1.2.3
2.2 Strategies for Sustainable Use	x	x	x	x	1.2.3
2.3 Strategies for Benefit Sharing	x	x	x	x	
3 Preparation of the National Strategy and Action Plan					
3.1 National Strategy	x	x	x	x	
3.2 National Action Plan	x	x	x	x	4
4 Preparation of First National Report to CBD					
4.1 First National Report	x	x		x	

x Activity to be accomplished under this project.



Minister of Health and the Environment

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February 10, 1997

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlof
Executive Coordinator
UNEP/GEF Coordinator Office
United Nations Environment Programme
P.O.Box 30552
Nairobi, Kenya

97/0735

Dear Sir,

**Preparation of the Barbados National Biodiversity Strategy,
Action Plan and First Report to the Convention on
Biological Diversity**

I have the honour to forward to you the attached project proposal, requesting the assistance of UNEP for this project.

The Government of Barbados is committed to implementing the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Biodiversity Convention regarding article 6 of the Convention.

In my capacity as the GEF operational focal point, I am confident that this project will create sufficient capacity within the country to initiate a process of biodiversity planning and to fulfill the reporting requirements under the Convention.

Please be assured of my highest regards.

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Thompson
Minister of Health and the Environment

Attachment:

c.c: P.S. Foreign Affairs
P.S. Economic Affairs

HET:pg

GEF UNIT	
RECEIVED	
ACTION	REQUIRED
NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
- 5 MAR 1997	
WHAT
WHO	CS/JS
WHEN COMPLETED
	NO YES
CIRCULATE	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>